

CITY OF

317 S. MAIN ST.  
JEFFERSON, WISCONSIN 53549  
674-7700



February 3, 2010

Congresswoman Baldwin:

**As the Mayor of the City of Jefferson, I am writing to encourage you and your staff to continue pursuing federal financial assistance to build a bridge connecting the southern portion of the City of Jefferson to the school district campus.**

The City of Jefferson Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is seeking funds to **provide a safe route for school children and promote walking and biking to school. Upon successful funding of this project, the City will conduct a public input session for the school district community.** This project will spur economic development by providing more accessibility to the downtown area while providing a greater connection to our water resources.

The Crawfish River winds through the City of Jefferson and divides the community. Due to the location of the river, children are forced to walk on a busy county highway to get to school. City officials are finding that children are trying to avoid this busy street by crossing the frozen river in the winter months. In 2004, two children broke through the ice and were it not for an off duty police officer's quick actions, these children may have drowned. We would like to prevent this sort of situation from occurring again. Many parents have been driving their children to school which also increases our congestion around the school district campus. We feel strongly that by having a bridge, we would increase the walking and biking traffic which will make our community healthier as well as decrease the amount of automobile traffic in the area. This bridge would also provide a link to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Glacial Drumlin Trail for Jefferson residents.

**We have discussed this project through appropriately noticed public meetings and workshops over the last four years and received significant community support. Additional public meetings will be held, if federal funding is obtained to allow the public to comment further.**

**Without one hundred percent support of the Federal government on this project, our community will not be able pursue this project.** As you may remember, we experienced tremendous losses during the June 2008 flooding of the Rock and Crawfish Rivers. The city of Jefferson is struggling with its efforts to return to its pre-flood conditions. **By using Federal dollars for this project, you are helping to ensure a safe passage to our schools for the children. This bridge will provide a continuation of the city planned bicycle and pedestrian trails as well as a connection to the Glacial Drumlin trail.** The City of Jefferson partnered with Jefferson County to provide for a county wide Bikeway/Pedestrian plan. This plan incorporates the bridge over the Crawfish River as a connection and continuation of the county trail system.

Thank you for pursuing this project. I appreciate your help in bringing this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Gary Myers  
Mayor  
City of Jefferson